

## Deuteronomy 27 - Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011

(1) Now Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people, saying: "Keep all the commandments which I command you today. (2) And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime. (3) You shall write on them all the words of this law, when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the LORD your God is giving you, 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' just as the LORD God of your fathers promised you. (4) Therefore it shall be, when you have crossed over the Jordan, *that* on Mount Ebal you shall set up these stones, which I command you today, and you shall whitewash them with lime.

- Moses sort of rounds a corner now and is taking the commands of God to the next level as it relates to the Israelites actually carrying them out.
- In other words, they were to both hear and heed the commands of God and in so doing, become doers, not merely hearers of the Word of God.

**James 1:22-25 NKJV** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; (24) for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. (25) But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

- It's important to understand that just because we read where God commands Israel, doesn't mean that it was met with obedience by Israel.
- This begs the question of whether or not they actually obeyed God once they entered the Promised-Land. Actually, Joshua tells us that they did.

**Joshua 8:30-32 NKJV** Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal, (31) as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: "an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron *tool*." And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. (32) And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.

(5) And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones; you shall not use an iron *tool* on them. (6) You shall build with whole stones the altar of the LORD your God, and offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God. (7) You shall offer peace offerings, and shall eat there, and rejoice before the LORD your God. (8) And you shall write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law."

- This is interesting for a number of reasons, not the least of which is, how that God wanted them to make this altar plain without anything fancy.
- Couple of thoughts as it relates to this, first, all the focus on was to be on the Lord, and not on the altar itself. No flesh glories in His presence.
- Second, at our own altar of service before the Lord, especially for those who teach God's Word, we should present it humbly, simply and plainly.
- Also, at this altar, they were to present the burnt offerings and the peace offerings that they would eat before the Lord and rejoice in the Lord.
- Back in our study of Leviticus, chapters one through seven, we learned how that these offerings pointed to, and were fulfilled by, Jesus Christ.
- Chapter one gives us the details of the burnt offering which was voluntary and in so doing painted a beautiful picture on the canvass of typology.

Ch. Vs.	THE OFFERING	HIS OFFERING
CH. 1	VOLUNTARY BURNT OFFERING - PAYMENT FOR SIN	JESUS IS OFFERED AS A VOLUNTARY PAYMENT FOR SIN
5	A burden carrying bull was to take their place.	Jesus carried the burden of our sin in our place.
11	It is slaughtered at the north side of the altar.	Jesus was crucified at the north side of the temple.
14-17	The bird with the feathers plucked off and the wings spread out and put on the wood.	Jesus was from heaven like a bird, His beard plucked off and His arms spread out on a wooden cross.

### THE FIVE OFFERINGS

WHAT	WHO	WHY	WHEN
Voluntary Burnt Offering (Chapter 1)	It's my decision because I have sinned by my own free choice.	...for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God Romans 3:23	Now I can accept of my own free choice to acknowledge that I am a sinner.
Voluntary Grain Offering (Chapter 2)	It's my gift because in the Old Testament Atonement (Khofar) was just a covering for sin.	For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23	Now in the New Testament Atonement is a cleaning of my sin not just a covering for my sin.
Voluntary Peace Offering (Chapter 3)	It's my life given "to" Him because He gave His life "for" me.	Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1	Now I can enjoy peace with God by giving Him the best (represented by the fat) and by giving Him my life (represented by the blood). It's "just-if-I'd" never sinned.
Mandatory Sin Offering (Chapter 4)	It was His decision to be made sin for me, because of His love for me.	For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21	I accept His payment for my sin; I am restored in righteousness back to God.
Mandatory Guilt Offering (Chapter 5)	It was His decision to take our guilt and shame as a lamb that was slain, a sacrifice in my place.	Who was delivered up because of our offenses and was raised because of our justification. Romans 4:25	When He died on the cross and rose again, He took away the consequences of my guilt and shame. Sin had to be paid for.

(9) Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the LORD your God. (10) Therefore you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today."

- At first glance, this may seem like a firm grasp of the obvious; God is God, and the Israelites are not, thus you are to obey all of His commands.
- OK, we know that, so why do we need to repeat that, and declare that? Because, in one sense, it would in fact seal the deal, if you will.
- This was God's way of saying not only are you entering into the Promised-Land that I am giving you, but this is what I in turn expect from you.

(11) And Moses commanded the people on the same day, saying, (12) "These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed over the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin; (13) and these shall stand on Mount Ebal to curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

- Moses commands them to have three tribes stand on Mount Gerizim and three on Mount Ebal, both of which were about 2000 feet in elevation.
- In between these two mountains was a valley that separated them, and as we'll see in a moment, they were to both speak curses and blessings.
- Now, what's interesting about this is that the landscape would have lent itself to being a natural public address system for all of them to hear.

(14) "And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel: (15) 'Cursed *is* the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets *it* up in secret.' "And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen!' (16) 'Cursed *is* the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' (17) 'Cursed *is* the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' (18) 'Cursed *is* the one who makes the blind to wander off the road.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' (19) 'Cursed *is* the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' (20) 'Cursed *is* the one who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' (21) 'Cursed *is* the one who lies with any kind of animal.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' (22) 'Cursed *is* the one who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' (23) 'Cursed *is* the one who lies with his mother-in-law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' (24) 'Cursed *is* the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' (25) 'Cursed *is* the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' (26) 'Cursed *is* the one who does not confirm *all* the words of this law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' "

- So, that's how the chapter ends, with a terrible list of curses. In the next chapter, we'll see the blessings but not in the way you would think.
- Whereas the curses were pronounced upon them here in chapter twenty-seven, the blessings would come upon them in chapter twenty-eight.
- So as to not end on a cursed note, let me hasten to quote from the Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Galatian church which deals with this curse.

**Galatians 3:10 NIV** All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."